

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An energy-absorbing and vehicle directing barrier system, comprising:

a barrier located adjacent a vehicle path that extends parallel therewith;

a first impact panel with a first proximal end and a first distal end, said first proximal end is fixedly mounted directly to said barrier to be immovable when said first impact panel is impacted by a vehicle, said first impact panel further has a first portion between said first proximal end and said first distal end that is parallel to said barrier;

a second impact panel adapted to be overlappable with one like itself with a second proximal end and a second distal end, said second proximal end is fixedly mounted directly to said barrier to be immovable when said second impact panel is impacted by a vehicle, said second impact panel further has a second portion between said second proximal end and said second distal end that is parallel to said barrier, said second portion positioned adjacent and inwardly of said first portion with said first portion overlapping said second portion and being unconnected thereto while being independently movable relative to said second portion, said first portion and said second portion extending parallel with respect to each other and to said barrier directing a vehicle impacting said first impact panel and said second impact panel in a direction from said first proximal end to said second distal end; and attachable to a barrier; and

a first crushable member adapted to be positioned between the first impact panel and the barrier when the first impact panel is attached to the barrier, said first crushable

Amendment Response
Serial No. 10/634,178 Group Art Unit 3637
Atty. Docket No. 5659-3
Page 2 of 10

member absorbing a portion of the collision energy of a vehicle impacting said first impact panel; and,

a second crushable member positioned between the second impact panel and the barrier to absorb a portion of collision energy of a vehicle impacting said first impact panel and said second impact panel and to direct a portion of collision energy along the length of the barrier system as the vehicle is directed by said first portion and said second portion parallel to said barrier.

Claims 2-3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The energy-absorbing barrier system of claim 1 wherein: ~~3, further comprising:~~ a second crushable member adapted to be positioned between the second impact panel and the barrier when the second impact panel is attached to the barrier, and to be at least partially crushed between the second impact panel and the barrier when:

~~the first impact panel and the second impact panel are overlappingly attached to the barrier;~~

~~the second crushable member is positioned between the second impact panel and the barrier; and~~

~~the first impact panel is impacted sufficiently to directly contact and deflect the first impact panel against the second impact panel sufficiently to deflect the second impact panel against the second crushable member.~~

Claims 5-19 (cancelled)

Amendment Response
Serial No. 10/634,178 Group Art Unit 3637
Atty. Docket No. 5659-3
Page 3 of 10

Claim 20 (new): The barrier system of claim 4 wherein:

said first impact panel has a first inner plate positioned adjacent said barrier and extends along therewith, a first outer plate, and a first intermediate plate joining said first inner plate and said first outer plate together, said first inner plate and said first outer plate are parallel to said barrier whereas said first intermediate plate extends outwardly from said barrier in a direction from said first proximal end to said first distal end spacing said first outer plate apart from said barrier forming a cavity in which is located said first crushable member;

said second impact panel has a second inner plate positioned adjacent said barrier and extends along therewith, a second outer plate, and an second intermediate plate joining said second inner plate and said second outer plate together, said second inner plate and said second outer plate are parallel to said barrier whereas said second intermediate plate extends outwardly from said barrier in a direction from said second proximal end to said second distal end spacing said second outer plate apart from said barrier forming a cavity in which is located said second crushable member; and,

said first outer plate rests against outwardly of said second outer plate and forces said second outer plate toward said barrier when said first impact panel is impacted by a vehicle with said first outer plate and said second outer plate being flat and extending in a direction of said barrier directing the vehicle in a direction along said barrier.

Claim 21 (new): The barrier system of claim 20 and further comprising: the first inner plate having one or more fastener holes for fastening the first impact panel to said barrier;

Amendment Response
Serial No. 10/634,178 Group Art Unit 3637
Atty. Docket No. 5659-3
Page 4 of 10

a pliant fastening system pliably fastening the first impact panel to said barrier, including pliable material adapted to be placed between the first impact panel and the barrier, and a fastener fastening the pliable material between the first impact panel and the barrier.

Claim 22 (new): A method of absorbing impact energy from a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

providing a first impact panel having a first flat portion spaced apart from but extending parallel to a barrier forming a cavity in which is located a first crushable device;

providing a second impact panel having a second flat portion spaced apart from extending parallel to the barrier forming a cavity in which is located a second crushable device, said first flat portion located outwardly against said second flat portion;

impacting said first flat portion with a vehicle;

moving said first flat portion against the first crushable device;

at least partially crushing said first crushable member;

moving said first flat portion against said second flat portion;

at least partially crushing said second crushable member; and,

directing said vehicle along said barrier by said first flat portion and said second flat portion.

Amendment Response
Serial No. 10/634,178 Group Art Unit 3637
Atty. Docket No. 5659-3
Page 5 of 10